

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for use in a virus-free certificate proxy ~~(107, 804)~~, of retrieving from one or a plurality of virus-free certificate authorities ~~(104, 804)~~ a virus-free certificate ~~(200)~~ certifying that a file is virus-free, said method comprising the steps of:

- receiving ~~(1001)~~ a virus-free certificate request for a file;
- selecting a virus-free certificate authority ~~(104, 804)~~ having authority to generate a virus-free certificate ~~(200)~~ for the file;
- requesting ~~(1003..1007)~~ the virus-free certificate to the selected virus-free certificate authority ~~(104, 804)~~;
- receiving ~~(1003..1007)~~ from the selected virus-free certificate authority the generated virus-free certificate; and
- sending back ~~(1005)~~ in response to the virus-free certificate request the received virus-free certificate.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the virus-free certificate request comprises:

- a list of one or a plurality of anti-virus programs to execute on the file to determine whether the file is virus-free or not.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the virus-free certificate request comprises:

- the file for which the virus-free certificate is requested.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the virus-free certificate request comprises:

- an identification of the file ~~(902)~~ comprising:
- a file identity ~~(905)~~, or
- an identification of the provider of the file ~~(903)~~, or
- both.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority having authority to generate a virus-free certificate for the file comprises the further steps of:

- determining ~~(1002)~~ whether the virus-certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate authority or not; and
- ~~if~~ the virus-free certificate request does not comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate authority; selecting ~~(1018)~~ a virus-free certificate authority referring to a first table ~~(901)~~, said first table comprising for each identified file ~~(902)~~ a list of one or a plurality anti-virus programs ~~(914)~~, each list being associated with a virus-free certificate authority ~~(912)~~.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority having authority to generate a virus-free certificate for the file comprises the further steps of:

- determining ~~(1002)~~ whether the virus-certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate authority or not; and
- ~~if~~ the virus-free certificate request does not comprise an identification of a virus-free certificate authority; determining ~~(1013)~~ whether the virus-certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate relay or not; and
- ~~if~~ the virus-certificate request does not comprise an identification of a virus-free certificate relay; selecting ~~(1018)~~ a virus-free certificate authority

referring to a first table (904), said first table comprising for each identified file a list of one or a plurality anti-virus programs (914), each list being associated with a virus-free certificate authority (912), or a virus-free certificate relay (913) or both.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority having authority to generate a virus-free certificate for the file comprises the further steps of:

- determining (1002) whether the virus-certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate authority or not; and
- if the virus-free certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate authority; selecting the virus-free certificate authority identified in the virus-free certificate request.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority having authority to generate a virus-free certificate for the file comprises the further steps of:

- determining (1002) whether the virus-certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate authority or not;
- if the virus-free certificate request does not comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate authority; determining (1013) whether the virus-certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate relay or not; and
- if the virus-certificate request comprises an identification of a virus-free certificate relay; selecting (1014) a virus-free certificate authority referring to the virus-free certificate relay.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4-5 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority referring to a first table (901) comprises the steps of:

- determining (1017)-whether the file is identified or not in the first table (901);_i
- ~~if~~ the file is identified in the first table (901);_i selecting a list of one or a plurality of anti-virus programs according to ~~the~~ a list of one or plurality of anti-virus programs ~~comprised that is included~~ in the virus-free certificate request;
- determining (1018) whether a virus-free certificate authority is associated with the selected list or not; and
- if a virus-free certificate authority is associated with the selected list;_i
selecting the virus-free certificate authority associated with the selected list;_i

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4-5 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority referring to a first table comprises the steps of:

- determining (1017)-whether the file is identified or not in the first table (901);_i
- ~~if~~ the file is identified in the first table (901);_i selecting a list of one or a plurality of anti-virus programs according to ~~the~~ a list of one or plurality of anti-virus programs ~~comprised that is included~~ in the virus-free certificate request;
- determining (1018)-whether a virus-free certificate authority is associated with the selected list or not;
- if a virus-free certificate authority is not associated with the selected list;_i
determining (1019)-whether a virus-free certificate relay is associated with the selected list or not; and
- if a virus-free certificate relay is associated with the selected list;_i selecting (1014)-a virus-free certificate authority referring to the virus-free certificate relay;_i

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4-5 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority referring to a first table comprises the steps of:

- determining whether the file is identified or not in the first table (904); and
- ~~if~~ the file is not identified in the first table (904); selecting (1016) a default virus-free certificate authority (803) in the first table (904).

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4-10 wherein the step of selecting a virus-free certificate authority referring to a virus-free certificate relay (805) comprises the step of:

- selecting (1014) a virus-free certificate authority referring to a second table in said virus-free certificate relay, said second table comprising for each identified file a list of one or a plurality of anti-virus programs, each list being associated with a virus-free certificate authority.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the generated virus-free certificate comprises:

- a file signature (207) for certifying that the file is declared virus-free by the selected virus-free certificate authority (104, 804).

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the virus-free certificate (200) further comprises:

- a file identification (201);
- a virus-free certificate authority identification (202);
- a public key (203) for decrypting the file signature;
- a certificate signature (206) for authenticating the virus-free certificate; and
- a an indication of the virus-free certificate validity (204).

15. (Currently amended) A system implementing a virus-free certificate proxy, said system comprising a processor that executes a program for implementing a method having the steps of:

- receiving virus-free certificate request for a file;
- selecting a virus-free certificate authority having authority to generate a virus-free certificate (200) for the file;
- requesting (~~1003..1007~~) the virus-free certificate to the selected virus-free certificate authority (~~104, 804~~);
- receiving (~~1003..1007~~) from the selected virus-free certificate authority the generated virus-free certificate; and
- sending back (~~1005~~) in response to the virus-free certificate request the received virus-free certificate.

16. (Currently amended) A computer program recorded on a computer-readable medium and comprising instructions for executing a method having the steps of:

- receiving (~~1001~~) virus-free certificate request for a file;
- selecting a virus-free certificate authority (~~104, 804~~) having authority to generate a virus-free certificate (200) for the file;
- requesting (~~1003..1007~~) the virus-free certificate to the selected virus-free certificate authority (~~104, 804~~);
- receiving (~~1003..1007~~) from the selected virus-free certificate authority the generated virus-free certificate; and
- sending back (~~1005~~) in response to the virus-free certificate request the received virus-free certificate.